GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1060
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER IN CITIES
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of scarcity of drinking water in the cities;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to use treated waste water for drinking purposes in the cities to meet the shortage of water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): Urban water supply is a State subject. As such, the planning, design, implementation, O&M and monitoring of water supply scheme is the responsibility of concerned State Govts./Urban Local Bodies. As per information available, most of the towns are having per capita water supply of more than 70 lpcd. However, supply of water may not be equitable in some parts of the cities.

(b): To meet the gap between supply & demand and for equitable distribution across the city, the Ministry had launched programme namely Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) in December, 2005 to provide reform linked assessment for creation of infrastructure facilities including water supply schemes in all urban areas of the country.

(c)to(e): Use of treated waste water for drinking purposes is not aesthetically acceptable. However, some of the ULBs have already embarked on tertiary treatment of waste water and use it for non potable purposes like horticulture, air conditioning, recharge of aquifer etc.

The Ministry has also issued a Gazette Notification in July 2001 in respect of NDMC modifying the building byelaws. The modified bye-laws inter-alia provides that all buildings discharging waste water of 10000 litres/day and above shall have waste water re-cycling systems. The re-cycled water could be used for horticulture purposes.